

REMARKS:

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 3-12 and 14-25. Claims 1, 12 and 23-25 are amended herein, and new claim 26 is added. Claims 2 and 13 remain cancelled. No new matter is presented. Thus, claims 1, 3-12 and 14-26 are pending and under consideration. The rejections are traversed below.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(e):

Claims 1, 3-10, 12, 14-21 and 23-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,047,260 (Levinson).

Levinson is directed to predicting effects of different event/action sequences and comparing the predictions to a set of specified goals for selecting the actions/events that maximize goal achievements. For example, a schedule is determined for a user based on priority and goal associated with tasks and appointments (see, column 9, lines 50-53). However, Levinson changes both the fixed and floating appointments that are in conflict based on priorities or rewards associated with the same (see, col. 4, lines 32-41 and col. 10, lines 4-11).

In contrast to Levinson, the present invention adjusts overlapped schedules based on type of the schedules such that some type of overlapped schedules are changed while other types are maintained. For example, as shown in FIGS. 9A-C, overlapped term type schedules are maintained and do not require adjustment, while all other types of schedules are adjusted based on corresponding priority as shown in FIGS. 10A-10C.

Independent claims 1, 12 and 23 as amended recite that the present invention classifies inputted schedule into "any type of a term type schedule... or a period type schedule" and adjusts the schedules "in accordance with a combination of the schedule types... in a case where said inputted schedule overlaps with an existing schedule with respect to the time and maintains overlapped term type schedules".

Independent claims 24 and 25 as amended also recite, "automatically adjusting scheduling overlaps where overlapped schedules having a corresponding designated date/time as a term are maintained" and "adjusting existing schedules responsive to the types while maintaining overlapped schedules having a predetermined type", respectively.

Levinson is limited to changing both fixed and floating appointments that are in conflict based on priorities or rewards associated therewith and does not teach or suggest the above features recited in the independent claims of the present application.

It is submitted that the independent claims are patentable over Levinson.

For at least the above-mentioned reasons, claims depending from independent claims 1 and 12 are patentably distinguishable over Levinson. The dependent claims are also independently patentable. For example, as recited in claim 6, "in the case where the inputted new schedule and the existing schedule are the period type schedules and periods of both of said schedules overlap, said schedule adjusting unit adjusts the schedules so as to leave the schedule of high priority". Levinson does not teach or suggest these features of dependent claim 6.

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a):

Claims 11 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Levinson and Windows 95™ Manual (Marks).

The Examiner acknowledges that Levinson does not disclose storing a history of deleted schedules upon deleting or adjusting schedules and referring to the same for recovery, but relies on Marks as teaching the same. Marks is limited to a Windows™ based operation that sends files to a recycling bin when files are deleted and maintains the deleted files until a user deletes or recovers the files from the recycling bin (see, page 1, paragraph 4).

The combination of Levinson and Marks does not teach or suggest classifying schedules into types and selectively performing operations with respect to the schedules based on the classification including performing "a recovery of the schedule deleted due to the schedule adjustment or a return of the schedule to an initial position moved due to the schedule adjustment", as recited in dependent claims 11 and 22.

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

NEW CLAIM:

New claim 26 is added to emphasize that the present invention includes, "grouping the schedules into a first type or a second type based on corresponding schedule information" and "adjusting the overlapped schedules based on the grouping when each of the overlapped schedules are not classified into the first type". The cited references, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest these features of new claim 26.

Therefore, it is submitted that new claim 26 is patentably distinguishable over the cited

references.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.


If there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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